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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4643  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 6974  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2211  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5169  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 8446  
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 5639  
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAN AND U.S.-ROK SUMMIT

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead stories on Wednesday morning included growing unrest in Iran over the recent reelection of President Ahmadinejad and yesterday's summit in Washington between President Obama and his South Korean counterpart Lee.

¶2. "No More Bloodshed" The conservative Sankei editorialized (6/17): "While Iran's sovereignty must be respected, Tehran should share the international community's view as expressed by President Obama that the democratic process, freedom of speech, and peaceful dissent are universal values that should be upheld.... In order to restore the international community's confidence, Iran needs to prove that the presidential election was fair."

¶3. "Democratic State at a Crossroads" A senior writer for the liberal Asahi wrote (6/17): "In a country where people have a strong belief in democracy, massive public demonstrations are taking place. Iran is at a crossroads over whether it is going to become an autocracy or remain a democratic country.... If mullahs, who are regarded as ruling wise men, fail to demonstrate 'fairness' and 'justice' in settling the current turmoil, Iran may step onto a dangerous path toward a military state."

¶4. "'Landslide' Jeopardizes Iran's Political System" The business-oriented Nikkei argued in an editorial (6/17): "The ongoing confrontation [between the pro-Ahmadinejad camp and pro-Mousavi camp] has rekindled distrust of Iran within the U.S., with the possibility growing that President Obama will be forced to review his dialogue line with Iran if results are not produced this year. Trying to improve ties with major countries is imperative for Iran to reconstruct its economy. The nation's future depends on whether the Iranian leadership will be able to take a step toward confidence building [with major countries]. Addressing the suspicion about possible election fraud will be a first step."

¶5. "Enhanced Nuclear Umbrella Meant to Preserve Status Quo" The

liberal Tokyo Shimbun stated from Washington on Tuesday's summit between President Obama and ROK President Lee (6/17): "The renewed U.S. commitment to maintain the nuclear umbrella over South Korea tends to be considered a reflection of Washington's strong resolve against North Korea's relentless pursuit of nuclear programs. However, the U.S. nuclear umbrella is also part of the Obama administration's nuclear nonproliferation policy designed to head off nuclear armament by Japan and South Korea while maintaining the U.S.'s vested interest in being a nuclear power."

ZUMWALT